

concerns of the Dene have already been relayed to my colleagues in the cabinet.

Mr. Manly: Madam Speaker, when speaking to some of the Dene people this morning, they assured me it is very important that this matter be brought before the House for debate to ensure that their trust is being handled properly. Three years ago the Dene people understood the government had accepted the Berger recommendation for a ten-year moratorium so that their land claims could be settled fairly. Will the minister responsible for a fair settlement of Indian land claims assure this House that, on the basis of the outstanding claims with the Dene people, claims that will be violated if the Norman Wells project goes ahead he will seek a moratorium on the Norman Wells project until such time as the Dene claims have been settled to the satisfaction of the Dene people?

● (1450)

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): Madam Speaker, surely it is a little premature to be reacting in the fashion the hon. member seems to be. The National Energy Board have not yet made their recommendation. That is a board duly constituted by Parliament to go into questions of this kind. It is rather inappropriate to prejudge what the National Energy Board might say. It is quite possible that the National Energy Board may recommend that there be a delay or that the application not be approved at this time.

I understand the Dene feel they have not had an adequate opportunity to present their views. Nevertheless, they did go before the board and the board was aware of their very real concerns. I can only indicate to the hon. member that his questions will be more appropriate once the National Energy Board makes its report and he and I and the entire House find out what they have to say about it.

In the meantime, in terms of allowing the House of Commons to have a full input into the implications of the matter, it is open to the hon. member's party and the other opposition party to raise this subject on their allotted days, because I agree it is a very serious one indeed.

* * *

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

EXECUTION OF SEARCH WARRANT—APOLOGY EXTENDED

Mr. Chris Speyer (Cambridge): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General. Does the minister agree that the action taken by the RCMP and immigration officials in executing a search warrant on the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fauja Bains in Toronto at 4 a.m., in circumstances where a gun was pointed at Mr. Bains' head, the home was ransacked and the Sikh holy book was torn, was outrageous; and is the minister willing to tender an apology on behalf of the RCMP and the government?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General): Before I answer that, Madam Speaker, I would like to indicate to the House I have

directed that pursuant to the resolution passed unanimously by this House at two o'clock the RCMP remove the fence erected in front of the House.

In reply to the question, I would indicate that the RCMP and the Solicitor General are prepared to apologize to the family concerned for that incident. The warrant was issued properly. It was executed in a lawful manner. However, it is obvious that some attention will have to be paid to the religious sensibilities of minority groups in Canada. I intend to consider this fully at the next possible opportunity with the RCMP to ensure adequate sensitivity for the domestic religious practices of members of minority groups in Canada.

Mr. Speyer: My supplementary is directed to the minister of immigration. What policy governs the use of firearms in searching for illegal immigrants when immigration officials and RCMP officials conduct such a search? Is there a policy with regard to carrying and pointing firearms in the circumstances in which I asked my previous question?

Mr. Kaplan: Madam Speaker, I will be glad to look into that and give the hon. member information about that. I do not have full details about everything that took place at the residence, but I have asked to be fully briefed about it. I will then be able to indicate to the hon. member the policy of the police on occasions like that.

* * *

FISHERIES

PROPOSED REDUCTION IN QUOTAS OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND NOVA SCOTIA FLEETS

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Madam Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. In fisheries circles in recent days there have been claims that the new Atlantic groundfish management plan could result in lay-offs for trawlermen and plant workers, with suggestions of losses as a result of this plan reaching the \$200 million mark. I therefore ask the minister why quotas which could reduce the year round fishing fleet's operations in Newfoundland and Nova Scotia to nine months a year have been proposed, and on what scientific data these new quotas are based.

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Madam Speaker, the type of headlines the hon. member refers to are misleading. The reality is that the large trawler fleet has enjoyed an increase in its catch from roughly 200,000 tonnes to over 300,000 tonnes for the last two or three years. Obviously, if the catch rate has increased dramatically and the fleet can take its quota in nine months, then surely that fleet is not entitled to ask me if it can take fish from other fishing enterprises which have a three, four or five-month season in order to ensure it can have a 12-month operation. That is the problem which must be dealt with, a dramatic catch rate increase and a biological increase which has to be kept within reasonable terms.